

REMARKS

The present remarks are in response to the First Non-Final Office Action dated December 12, 2007. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-17. Claims 1-7, 9-13, and 15-17 are currently amended. Claim 8 is cancelled. Claim 14 was previously submitted. Accordingly, Claims 1-7 and 9-17 are currently pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 (b)

In the Office Action, Claims 1-10, 14 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Patterson (GB 2294649A). Note, Claim 8 has been cancelled. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of Claims 1-7, 9-10, 14 and 15-17 under 35 USC §102(b).

With regard to Patterson, the Examiner's application of the Patterson reference is incorrect because the terminology of the claims of this application, which relate to an arrangement for securing the edges of the pleated filter cloths together, along the edges thereof, to an arrangement described by Patterson for securing the open ends of the pleats, where clean air is extracted from the chambers within the pleated filter element. The terminology of the currently amended claims we believe makes this distinction clear. Patterson shows, in Figs. 1, 2, and 3 no arrangement for clamping the edges of the pleated filter cloths 11, 12. Numbers 17,18 instead serve to hold apart strips 16 making up insert 15 (see Fig. 3) and have no function with regard to the filter elements.

Independent Claim 1 has therefore been amended for further clarification over Patterson and the rejection under 102 should be withdrawn. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection for Claims 1-7, 9-10, 14, and 15-17 is respectfully

requested. Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Since Claims 2-7, 9-10, 14, and 15-17 are pending and depend from Claim 1, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Patterson. The Applicant respectfully disagrees that the Claims 11-14 are unpatentable over Patterson.

For the same reasons as stated above, Patterson is not an applicable reference. Also, since Claims 11-14 depend from Claim 1, which is believed to be in condition for allowance, Claims 11-14 are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection for Claims 11-14 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Claims 1-7 and 9-17 are currently pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance and the application ready for issue. Corresponding action is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account Number 02-0900.

Respectfully submitted,

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